

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 11-14 are pending. Claim 14 is withdrawn from consideration with traverse. New claim 15 is added and properly depends on claim 1. Illustrative support for new claim 15 is found, for example, in paragraph 18 of the originally-filed application. In the above-referenced Office Action, claims 1-6 and 11-13 stand rejected. In the previous response, Applicant articulated distinctions between the pending claims and the cited references thus indicating that the references are insufficient to meet the claims. The content of the previous response is incorporated by reference in its entirety. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests a withdrawal of all rejections as set forth below.

Claims 1-6 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pohndorf (U.S. 4,628,934) or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Pohndorf or Pohndorf in view of Peers-Trevarton (4,628,934). As the Examiner is well aware, in order for a reference to anticipate a claim, that reference must teach each element of the properly construed claim. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Pohndorf fails to teach, among other things, "the first adaptor including a first insulative layer extending along the first inner surface to prevent electrical coupling of other than the first lead connector element; and...the second adaptor including a second insulative layer extending along the second inner surface to prevent electrical coupling of other than the second lead connector element". Pohndorf clearly states "a pair of identical adapters 316". If the adapters are identical, they cannot have a first insulative layer preventing electrical coupling of other than the first lead connector element and a second insulative layer preventing electrical coupling of other than the second lead connector element. These limitations in the pending claims clearly require non-identical adapters. Peers-Trevarton does not remedy this deficiency relating to first and second insulative layers of respective first and second adapters preventing electrical coupling of different connector elements. For at least this

reason, Applicant respectfully asserts the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of new claim 15 as it properly depends on claim 1 and, for the reasons set forth above, is allowable therewith. As stated in the previous response, an electrical contact element having an outer surface forming a portion of the adapter external surface is not taught by the cited references.

Applicant asserts that the remarks presented herein are fully responsive to the Office Action and are sufficient to overcome the rejections presented in the Office Action. However, there may be other arguments to be made as to why the pending claims are patentable. Applicant does not concede any such arguments by having not presented them herein. Applicant respectfully asserts that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the instant rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Further, Applicant reserves the right to re-present any originally file, cancelled, and/or previously unclaimed subject matter in a subsequently filed continuing application without prejudice or disclaimer.

Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned to expedite prosecution. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 8, 2008

/Carol F. Barry/
Carol F. Barry, Reg. No. 41,600
Telephone: (763) 526-0932
Customer No. 27581